

Message Text

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12

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 /030 W
----- 015753

P R 050740Z AUG 76
FM USINT BAGHDAD
TO USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3445
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

UNCLAS BAGHDAD 1080

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, ECRE, SENV, IZ, TC, SA, YO

SUBJ: FEBRUARY 77 WATER RESOURCES SPECIALIZED TRADE MISSION

REF: (A) STATE 13018 (NOTAL, (B) BAGHDAD 156 (NOTAL),
(C) STATE 136202 (NOTAL), (D) USDOC 12611 (NOTAL)

1. SEPTTEL COMING SHORTLY GIVING MARKET DATA FOR IRAQ REQUESTED
REF (C) AND (D).

2. MORE WE THINK ABOUT SUBJECT EVENT, MORE UNEASY WE BECOME ABOUT
COUNTRY MIX. SAUDI ARABIA, UAR AND IRAQ HAVE ONLY PARTLY OVER-
LAPPING WATER PROBLEMS (MAINLY RELATING TO URBAN DRINKING WATER
AND SEWAGE SYSTEMS). WE FACED SAME PROBLEM OF COUNTRIES TO BE
VISITED WITH LAST MAY'S TEXAS STATE IGOA MISSION ON THEME OF
AGRIBUSINESS. AS BOTH WE AND JIDDA POINTED OUT, IRAQ IS TRULY AN
AGRICULTURAL COUNTRY WHEREAS SAUDI ARABIA IS NOT. WE BELIEVE
TEXAS DECISION TO VISIT EGYPT AND IRAQ, BUT NOT SAUDI ARABIA WAS,
THEREFORE, EMINENTLY SENSIBLE.

3. AS IS TRUE OF OTHER ECONOMIC SECTORS, NEIGHBORING LANDS MOST
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SIMILAR TO IRAQ IN WATER RESOURCES AREA ARE IRAN, TURKEY, SYRIA

AND EGYPT--WHERE WATER IS ABUDANTLY AVAILABLE (BY NORTH AFRICAN OR NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST STANDARDS) AND IS USED FOR IRRIGATION AND HYDROELECTRIC POWER, AS WELL AS FOR THE CITIES. HTHERE IS, HOWEVER, NOT MUCH MORE THAN ACADEMIC INTERESST IN THESE COUNTRIES IN DESALTING OF SEAWATER, WHICH IS BIG BUSINESS ON ARAB SIDE OF PERSIAN GULF.

4. IRAQ WILL INVEST FIVE TO NINE BILLION DOLLARS IN WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN NOW AND 1980--BUT THE BIG MONEY WILL GO FOR IRRIGATION, DAMS AND HYDROELECTRIC PROJECBS. THIS WILL SURELY NOT BE CASE IN UUAЕ OR KUWAIT. WE KNOW HOUR IS LATE BUT BELIEVE ISSUE MUST BE FACED: DO IRAQ, SAUDI ARABIA AND EAE CONSTITUTE THE PROPER COUNTRY MIX FOR FEBRUARY WATER RESOURCES MISSION? WE DOUBT IT.

5. COUNTER PROPOSALS: (A) DROP IRAQ FROM ITINERARY AND ADD OMAN: OR (B) DROP SAUDI ARABIA AND EAE AND REPLACE BY SYRIA AND/OR IRAN. SUGGEST AFFECTED POSTS COMMENT ON ABOVE PROPOSAL.
KILLOUGH

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